

Serial No. 10/776,164  
Art Unit 2661

### IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (previously cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) A method of limiting a rate at which a connection is serviced at a queuing point for a plurality of connections including the connection, the method comprising:

arranging ~~messages from~~ the plurality of connections into a plurality of prioritized queues;

determining whether a the connection, ~~of the plurality of connections~~, exceeds a rate limit defined for the connection;

scheduling the connection in a peak rate limiting shaper queue ~~determining, using a shaper, when the queue containing a message for that connection is to be serviced~~ if the connection exceeds its rate limit; and

scheduling the connection in a weighted-fair-queuing scheduler queue if the connection is within its rate limit.

~~otherwise determining, using a fair scheduler, when the queue containing the message for that connection is to be serviced.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended) The method as defined in claim ~~14~~14 wherein the plurality of connections have traffic descriptors associated therewith.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The method as defined in claim ~~15~~15 wherein the traffic descriptors include the rate limit.

Claim 17 (currently amended) An apparatus for limiting a rate at which a connection is serviced at a queuing point for a plurality of connections including the connection, comprising:

a means to arrange ~~messages from~~ the plurality of connections into a plurality of prioritized queues;

means for determining whether a the connection ~~of the plurality of connections~~, exceeds a rate limit defined for the connection;

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means for scheduling the connection in a peak rate limiting shaper queue  
~~determining, using a shaper, when the queue containing a message for that connection is~~  
~~to be serviced~~ if the connection exceeds its rate limit; and

means for scheduling the connection in a weighted-fair-queuing scheduler queue  
if the connection is within its rate limit.

~~otherwise determining, using a fair scheduler, when the queue containing the~~  
~~message for that connection is to be serviced.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended)      The apparatus as defined in claim ~~16~~17 wherein  
the plurality of connections have traffic descriptors associated therewith.

Claim 19 (currently amended)      The method as defined in claim ~~17~~18 wherein the  
traffic descriptors include the rate limit.